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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 3, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period for Michigan's Waiver Request for ESEA
Flexibility

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) for waivers of 11 ESEA requirements established by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. These waivers will allow flexibility regarding the 2013-2014 timeline for determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), implementation of school and district improvement requirements, rural districts, schoolwide programs, support for school improvement, reward schools, Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) improvement plans, the transfer of certain federal funds, use of School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds to support priority schools, and use of 21st Century Community Learning Centers program funds.

In order to apply for and receive the waivers, the MDE has developed a comprehensive request based on four principles: Career- and College-Ready Expectations for All Students; State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support; Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership; and Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden. Upon submission to USED, the initial request will go through a peer review process. It is likely that some changes will be made to Michigan's request based on this process before a final plan is approved by USED.

Michigan's initial request for ESEA Flexibility will be available for review and public comment at www.michigan.gov/mde starting Monday, November 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Public comment will be open until Monday, November 14, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

All comments should be submitted to ESEAFlexibility@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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